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FCC - MAILROOM

MEMO TO: Chairman Kevin J. Martin

FROM: William D. Hillier

ORIGINAL

DATE: November 25, 2005

SUBJECT: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

Dear Chairman Martin:

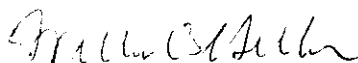
I have serious concerns regarding the FCC position to change the Universal Service Fund(USF) collection to a monthly flat fee. Millions, including my friends, family and neighbors will be negatively impacted by the unfair change proposed by the FCC.

As you know, USF is currently collected on a revenue basis. People who use more pay more into the system. If the FCC changes that system to a flat fee, that means that someone who uses one thousand minutes a month of long distance, pays the same amount into the fund as someone who uses zero minutes of long distance a month. People who use their limited resources wisely should not be penalized for doing so.

A flat fee tax could cause many low-volume long distance users, like students, prepaid wireless users, senior citizens and low-income residential and rural consumers to give up their phones due to unaffordably monthly increases on their bills. Shifting the funding burden of the USF from high volume to low volume users is radical and unnecessary. In addition, it would have a highly detrimental effect on small business all across America. The Keep USF Fair Coalition, of which I am a member, keeps me informed about the USF issue with monthly newsletters and up to date information on their website, including links to FCC information. While I am aware that federal law does not require companies to recover or "pass along" these fees to their customers, the reality is that they do. As a consumer I would like to ensure that I am charged fairly. If the FCC goes to a numbers taxed, my service will cost more. And according to the Coalition's recent meetings with top FCC officials, the FCC plans to change to a flat fee system soon AND WITHOUT LEGISLATION.

I will continue to monitor developments on this issue and to spread the word to my community. I **TELL YOU THE TRUTH—I AM SICK AND TIRED OF BEING TAXED OUT OF EXISTENCE. I EXPECT YOU WILL GET A DELUGE OF MAIL ON THIS SUBJECT.**

Sincerely,



William D. Hillier—2718 Ashrock Dr., Saint Louis, Missouri Postal Zone 63129-2507

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